

FERC Form No. 423" (RIN1902-AD47) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5788. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Office of Policy and International Affairs, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of an acting officer for the position of Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs, received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5789. A communication from the Program Manager, Center for Beneficiary Choices, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit" (RIN0938-AO74) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5790. A communication from the Global AIDS Coordinator, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to oversight of the Global Fund to fight AIDS; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5791. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Visas: Documentation of Immigrants and Non-immigrants—Visa Classification Symbols" (22 CFR Parts 41 and 42) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5792. A communication from the Deputy Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Parts 4022 and 4044) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5793. A communication from the Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to activities carried out by the Family Court during 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5794. A communication from the Executive Director, Office of Compliance, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5795. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure and Consistency of Cost Accounting Practices—Foreign Concerns" (RIN3110-01) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5796. A communication from the Acting Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5797. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Actions Taken on Office of Inspector General Recommendations"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5798. A communication from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Fiscal Year 2007 Performance Highlights"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2850. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to promote the direct deposit of Social Security benefits until adequate safeguards are established to prevent the attachment and garnishment of such benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BUNNING (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2851. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the penalty on the understatement of taxpayer's liability by tax return preparers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2852. A bill to provide increased accessibility to information on Federal spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 2853. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the cap on disproportionate share adjustment percentages for certain rural hospitals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. PRYOR)):

S. 2854. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to clarify the effective date of active duty members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces receiving an alert order anticipating a call or order to active duty in support of a contingency operation for purposes of entitlement to medical and dental care as members of the Armed Forces on active duty; to the Committee on Armed Services.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BENNETT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ALLARD, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WEBB, Mr. BYRD, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. Res. 513. A resolution congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Con. Res. 76. A concurrent resolution to make technical corrections in the enrollment of the bill S. 1858; considered and agreed to.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2852. A bill to provide increased accessibility to information on Federal spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, throughout my career, I have been working on the front lines of the battle for greater transparency and openness in our Government because I fundamentally believe the more the American people and my constituents in Texas understand about the Government and how it operates, the better accountability can take place, and people will once again feel they are in charge, which is absolutely the case. Knowledge is power, and transparency permits the accountability necessary for our system to work.

Just a few months ago, Senator PATRICK LEAHY, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and I were successful in getting a bill signed which modernized and greatly improved our Freedom of Information laws for the first time in many years. Now it is my intent to try to accomplish that same thing with the Federal spending, and that is why today I am introducing the Federal Spending and Taxpayer Accessibility Act of 2008.

The first thing this bill would do would be to create an online earmark tracking system that taxpayers can use free of charge to search for specific earmarks by recipient, by appropriations bill, by State, and by Member, and to do so in a real-time frame of reference during the appropriations process.

Of course, earmarks are especially designated appropriations for particular projects in particular locations. There is a lot of controversy about earmarks, but I think greater transparency would limit the number of earmarks introduced because were they to be completely transparent, it would discourage the use of earmarks and make certain only meritorious ones are accepted by the Congress as part of the appropriations process.

Secondly, my legislation would direct the Internal Revenue Service to provide each taxpayer with a concise, easy-to-read personal record of the amount of taxes they have already paid and an estimate of the amount of taxes they will pay in the timeframe before they retire.

As you know, the Social Security Administration currently already mails out a similar statement, called a Social Security account statement, which gives taxpayers a record of the earnings on which they have paid Social Security taxes and a summary of their estimated future benefits. So this taxpayer account statement would be sort of the mirror image of the Social Security statement, and it would let people know how much taxes they have paid and what their tax obligation would likely be into the future.